

# Farm & Market REPORT



Vol. 78, No. 10, October 2001

## Commissioner's Column

### Changeable Skies for Bay State Agriculture

by Jonathan L. Healy

As a farmer and state official, I find that both activities have something in common: you have some good years and some bad years, weather intervenes, and sometimes you can't control your destiny due to factors out of your control.

September state revenues were down \$213 million from last September. It is clear that our department will be fortunate to even be level funded at last year's levels, given the clear turn in our economy. Our Department, thanks to the Weld/Cellucci/Swift administrations and the Legislature, has had significant budgetary increases to fund a whole new set of tools for our farmer-friendly toolbox. On the other hand, the federal farm bill, with billions of dollars of resources, has largely ignored New England farm assistance in favoring large subsidies for agri-businesses in the Midwest.

While state funding looks precarious, federal funding might be more favorable in future years. We have helped establish a new coalition of New England farmers, departments of agriculture, farm bureaus, and environmentalists. The coalition is urging Congress to provide more marketing, viability, and business development funds. These programs are both much less costly than present federal subsidies and much more effective in keeping farmers profitable through market-driven approaches to agriculture.

The first fruit from our farm bill coalition is ready to be harvested. USDA and Congress have given Massachusetts over \$1 million to help promote Massachusetts

**Commissioner,** cont on pg 2

### In Memoriam: John Ogonowski

The Department of Food and Agriculture was shocked and deeply saddened to learn that Dracut farmer John Ogonowski was the pilot of American Airlines flight 11, the first plane to crash into the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11th. John was a full time 23-year veteran pilot for American Airlines who also raised crops on 200 acres in Dracut.

John was a founder and active member of a local land trust that has helped to save Dracut farmland from development. His land is protected under the state's Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program. He was very much involved in USDA's New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (NEFSP), assisting and providing land for Cambodian immigrant farmers. John was also a member of the Dracut Grange.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to John's wife Peggy, his daughters Laura, Caroline and Mary Katharine, brother Jim, parents Alexander and Theresa and his entire family. We also offer our condolences to anyone who lost loved ones in the September 11th tragedy.

Memorials for John Ogonowski may be made to Dracut Land Trust Inc., care of Enterprise Bank and Trust Co., 1168 Lakeview Ave., Dracut, MA 01826. ♦

### Notice to Readers

Due to budget constraints, DFA must implement tight spending controls including reducing printing and postage costs. For that reason, we will begin sending the *Farm & Market Report* by e-mail next month to all subscribers who provide an e-mail address. Please help us continue publishing the *Farm & Market Report* by sending us your e-mail address if you have one. Send a message to [Diane.Baedeker@state.ma.us](mailto:Diane.Baedeker@state.ma.us) and be sure to include your name, mailing address where you currently receive the newsletter, and your phone number. Thank you. ♦

### Dairy Compact Expires

The Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact lost its Congressional consent to exist as of Sunday September 30, 2001. Attempts to extend Congressional authority beyond that date fell short but will continue.

"It's unfortunate that such a valuable tool has been lost," says Commissioner Healy. "The real tragedy is that the Compact became embroiled in politics, while its merits were ignored. The fact is that the Compact offered opportunity to dairy farmers and served the farmer well in its brief life," Healy said.

The Compact Commission held its last meeting on September 28th to provide for the orderly close of the Compact Commission's business including paying final bills and debts of the Commission. The Commission transferred the assets of the Commission to the Center for New England Dairy Compact Research, which is a non-profit corporation with the purpose of winding up the affairs of the Compact.

The continuing efforts to permanently reauthorize and expand the Compact continue despite daunting odds. "While Congressional consent has expired state laws remain intact. The only requirement for the Compact to restart is for Congress to give its consent," states Healy.

Current prospects of such consent are to attach compact legislation to an appropriations bill or to the federal farm bill. The Congress may not complete work on the farm bill, however, until after the first of the year. Appropriations bills are currently the best hope for successful passage of Congressional consent.

"I remain hopeful that when the Congress gets a handle on the more pressing issues of our National defense, that it will consider the merits of the Compact and reauthorize it," Commissioner Healy says.

Compact Commission Executive Director Daniel Smith agrees: "I remain eternally optimistic, as I always have been with the Compact effort, that the substance of what we are trying to accomplish, and now with the proof of what we actually have accomplished, will prevail over base politics." ♦

## FARM-CITY CONNECTIONS

### Celebrate National Farm-City Week, November 16 to 22

The week prior to Thanksgiving is again designated Farm-City Week by the National Farm-City Council to strengthen public understanding of our farm-city connections.

First conceptualized in 1955 by Merle Tucker of Kiwanis International and Charles Dana Bennett, a Vermont entrepreneur, the week gained wide support from various farm organizations as the need for more positive public relations between farm and city dwellers was recognized.

To celebrate farm-city week on your farm or in your community, a kit of materials offers tips for organizing events, public service announcements, news columns, a local proclamation, a letter to the editor, grade school activity sheets, logos, stickers, placemats and various farm-city facts to help create a memorable occasion.

If you would like to plan a local "farm-city" event during, prior to or after the designated week, we will do our best to help you out. Phone us at 617-626-1735 or e-mail Janet.Christensen@state.ma.us

### "Farm To School Cafeteria": Northeast Regional Conference December 9 & 10

Cornell University is sponsoring a unique program to encourage partnerships for improving health, supporting farms and building community. The program aims to stimulate new farm to school links and strengthen existing projects linking local producers with K-12 and college and university cafeterias throughout the Northeast.

Farmers and food service buyers will meet with educators and distributors, and a variety of workshops and discussions are planned. For info, check out [www.cals.edu/agfoodcommunity/afc.cfm](http://www.cals.edu/agfoodcommunity/afc.cfm) or phone Heidi at 607-255-0417.

### Ag In The Classroom Activities Up And Running

Educators Workshop, Saturday, November 10 at Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Learn about 4-H, FFA and other youth programs, tour the historic Storowtown Village Museum, view the Equine Fair and also earn pdp's.

To order the "It's Your World" curriculum, "What's Up Mac" video and learning activities, or a comprehensive ag education kit including same, and to learn about workshops, contact Debi Hogan at 508-336-4426 or e-mail [dchogan@sprynet.com](mailto:dchogan@sprynet.com). ♦

## Massachusetts Agriculture Photo Contest Winners Announced!

### 2002 Mass. Agriculture Calendar Published

WEST SPRINGFIELD -- The winning photos from this year's Massachusetts Agriculture Calendar Photo Contest have been selected and published in the 2002 *Massachusetts Agriculture Calendar*. The calendar, published by the Massachusetts Department of Food Agriculture, features a winning photograph each month and on the cover. The 13 pictures portray local farms and products throughout the seasons.

Several of the winners received their awards in a ceremony on Thursday, September 20 – Massachusetts Day – at The Big E, West Springfield. Massachusetts Governor Jane Swift and Commissioner of Food and Agriculture Jonathan L. Healy presented the awards on the front lawn of the Massachusetts Building on the fairgrounds.

The 2002 Massachusetts Agriculture Photo Contest winners are:

MONTH	WINNER	TOWN	PHOTO DESCRIPTION
Cover	Julian Robinson	Oak Bluffs	Cow & Calf at Whiting Farm, West Tisbury
January	Fran Imhoff	Berlin	Horses at Orchard Hill Equestrian Center, Berlin
February	Kristi Oliver	Millis	Julianna & Taylor at Acorn Alpaca Ranch, Millis
March	Martha Wholey	Shelburne	Collecting Sap, Shelburne
April	Kate Morris	North Andover	Baby Pigs at Smolak Farm, North Andover
May	Tom Nelson	Rochester	Lilac Sensation – Rabbit Run Nursery
June	Faith Everett	Williamsburg	Cow at Hemenway Hill Farm
July	Donna Blischke	Carver	Children eating corn at Web of Life Organic Farm
August	Nancy King	Northfield	Cucumbers
September	Robin Paris	East Falmouth	Harvested apples in Bolton
October	Mary Maher	Orleans	Son Jamie in field with cranberries
November	Nancy King	Northfield	Pumpkins with CISA logo
December	Robin Paris	East Falmouth	Christmas trees

"This calendar will educate consumers about the rich diversity of agriculture in the Bay State," commented Commissioner Healy. "I'm sure folks will enjoy viewing these attractive pictures throughout the year while learning about farming in Commonwealth."

Each winner received a "Massachusetts grown...and fresher!" logo merchandise item, two tickets to the Eastern States Exposition (The Big E), and two complimentary calendars.

Calendars may be purchased for \$5.00 each; proceeds will benefit Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom, a non-profit organization that works with teachers throughout the state in developing classroom materials. Send a check payable to Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom with your name and address to: Calendar, Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114. ♦

## In Memoriam: Robert Young

Robert E. (Bob) Young, Professor Emeritus, University of Massachusetts, passed away on September 1, 2001 at the age of 93. A leading authority on greenhouse vegetable crop culture, Bob was a frequent speaker at vegetable grower meetings. Perhaps his greatest contribution to the vegetable industry was in the area of plant breeding, where he introduced more than 25 varieties. Among his introductions are All American Award winning Waltham Butternut squash, Waltham 29 broccoli, Waltham Washington asparagus, Waltham Hicolor carrot and several tomato varieties. Born in Oklahoma and graduated from Oklahoma State University and Ohio State University, Professor Young came to the then Waltham Field Station in 1931. He received many honors for his work and will be greatly missed. ♦

### Commissioner, cont from pg 1

specialty crops such as cranberries, apples, vegetables, and horticultural crops. We hope to leverage these funds with other private and public sector entities to help sustain economically viable possibilities for this important sector. DFA is establishing a working advisory group to give advice as to the best way we can help promote these important Massachusetts farm businesses. Let our group know if you have any suggestions! ♦



## 4th Annual Statewide Pesticide Collection Scheduled for November

The Massachusetts Pesticide Bureau will conduct its Fourth Annual Waste Pesticide Collection Program in November. The annual collection program is a legal, low cost, opportunity for pesticide users to dispose of unused, unwanted, banned and cancelled pesticides. Licensed and certified pesticide applicators, farmers, state agencies and municipal agencies are eligible to participate. Since 1998, the Pesticide Bureau has collected over 80,000 lbs of waste pesticides at seventeen locations.

As in past years, Safety-Kleen will be the licensed hazardous waste hauler collecting the waste pesticides. The collection events will occur at Massachusetts Highway Department facilities in the following locations. "Pesticide Bureau Event" signs will be posted outside the locations.

- **November 13 -- Bridgewater,** MassHighway Depot. (Intersection of Rtes 24 and 104.)
- **November 14 -- Waltham,** UMass Extension Center. (240 Beaver Street, Waltham)
- **November 15 -- Millbury,** MassHighway Maintenance Facility (On Rte 146 South. 1.7 miles South of Rte 20 across from John Deere dealer).
- **November 16 -- Northampton,** MassHighway Facilities, (Route 9, Locust Street Take I-91 to Exit 18. Turn left at the bottom of the ramp to Route 5N. At the first set of lights turn left on to Route 9 West for 1.5 miles. Site is on the right after the City of Northampton facility.)
- **November 19 -- Topsfield,** Topsfield Fairgrounds, (Route 1)

Applicators must pre-register with Safety-Kleen to participate. The pre-registration form is available on the Pesticide Collection Program web site at <http://www.massdfa.org/pesticides/waste.htm>. Or, call the Pesticide Bureau at 617-626-1773.

With your pre-registration, Safety-Kleen will assign you a time to appear at the collection site and tell you how much you will be charged. The cost for disposal will be \$9 per gallon and \$1.35 per pound. Please pay on the day of the collection event using a cashier's check.

Applicators are responsible for making sure that their pesticides are packaged correctly for transportation. For more information on the safe packaging and transportation of pesticides, go to the Pesticide Collection Program web site at <http://www.massdfa.org/pesticides/waste.htm>. ♦

## Organic Cost-Share News

MDFA has received \$40,000 from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service and has signed a Cooperative Agreement to provide cost-share assistance to crop and livestock producers who apply and successfully receive organic certification under the new federal rule.

Organic farm certification must now comply with the National Organic Standards. Reimbursement for up to 70 percent of certification costs, not to exceed \$500 per recipient and amounts subject to availability of federal funds.

The reimbursement is available to production operations inspected and certified and/or inspected and receiving renewal of certification during the period of December 21, 2000 to August, 21, 2002. The deadline for Cost-Share Program reimbursement for Massachusetts farms is September 15, 2002. To obtain your Cost-Share Program Reimbursement Form, please contact Anneli Johnson, Mass. Department of Food & Agriculture, 251 Causeway St. # 500, Boston, MA 02114, 617-626-1755 Fax 617-626-1850, [anneli.johnson@state.ma.us](mailto:anneli.johnson@state.ma.us) ♦

## Mass. Receives Two FSMIP Grants

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has recently awarded two grants under the Federal - State Marketing Improvement Program to assist with market research, market education and market development.

The Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture received \$2,500 on behalf of the Pilgrim Resource Conservation and Development Council to define markets for lavender and specialty herb products as a diversification option for family farms in southeastern Massachusetts.

MDFA received a second grant for \$15,000 on behalf of the Center for Family, Work, and Community and the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production at the University of Massachusetts - Lowell. This grant will identify opportunities for local farmers to supply specialty produce to ethnic restaurants in this major city with a growing immigrant population.

For more information, contact Mary Jordan at 617-626-1750, [mary.jordan@state.ma.us](mailto:mary.jordan@state.ma.us) ♦

### How to Place a Classified Ad

Classified ads are accepted free-of charge on a first-come basis. Limit: 25 words. Be sure to include a phone number. No display ads will be accepted. Only one ad per business/individual per issue, unless space permits. Ads may run in consecutive issues, space permitting.

Ads must be of interest to Massachusetts farmers. The Mass. Dept. of Food and Agriculture reserves the right to refuse any listing it deems inappropriate for publication.

Send typewritten or neatly printed copy to: Farm & Market Report, Mass. Dept. of Food and Agriculture, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114, 617-626-1752 fax: 617-626-1850, e-mail: [Diane.Baedecker@state.ma.us](mailto:Diane.Baedecker@state.ma.us)

## CLASSIFIED

Assistant Manager needed to help with all aspects of operation at Brookfield Farm, a 500-share CSA growing 25 acres of vegetables in Amherst, MA. Experience required. Fax resume to 413-253-7991 or email to [bfcsa@aol.com](mailto:bfcsa@aol.com). Please contact by phone 413-253-7991 or email with further questions.

Sherwood Consultants now can provide technical expertise in the use of herbicides and fertilizers in addition to its usual business and financial farm services. Call: Woody Pratt at 617-232-8818 or E-mail to [shercons@aol.com](mailto:shercons@aol.com).

Highly successful fish-based fertilizer now available. Approved for organic farming by ORMI. Particularly suitable for vegetables and small fruits. SCI-Distributors, Inc. Jay Tripp, 508-789-4145, [Jay11745@aol.com](mailto:Jay11745@aol.com).

Family looking for family cow. Don't need a lot of milk. Grade or cross. Jersey, milking shorthorn preferred. contact Richard at 508-867-5735 or [rmurphy@star.net](mailto:rmurphy@star.net).

Old Mountain Farm; Nigerian Dwarf Miniature Dairy Goats. Currently available: (2) adult does (could be sold bred) and (2) blue-eyed spring doelings. Also taking reservations on 2002 kids (bottled upon request) that will begin arriving in February. Show quality, disease free, friendly, HES scored milking herd. We have over 22yrs. practical goat experience. Let us help you get started the right way. <http://www.oldmountainfarm.com/> call 207- 361- 2126 or email [olmtfarm@gwi.net](mailto:olmtfarm@gwi.net)

Looking for work in the Mass. area. Agricultural technician-over 15 yrs as a state programmer/ coordinator of floriculture for the Brazilian gov. have a wide-range of experience esp-/w-flowers-tropical plants-veg., pest and disease control, pesticides ,greenhouse, marketing, computer skills up-to-date software. English & Portuguese speaking. Please call Wagner Ribeiro, 978-443-6590 or e-mail: [wkmribeiro@aol.com](mailto:wkmribeiro@aol.com).

For sale: wrapped silage bales, grass mixed clover and alfalfa. 2nd & 3rd cutting, extra wrapped, \$35. 413-527-4104.

Pumpkins and miniature hay bales for sale: locally grown, excellent quality, delivered or picked up. Discounts on large quantities, satisfaction guaranteed. 978-264-4168.

For sale: Paula Reds, McIntosh, Cortland apples. Appleview Orchard, Pittsfield NH, 603-435-6483 phone/fax.

Red Fire Farm in Granby MA is seeking dedicated managers and interns. Farm grows 15-20 acres of certified organic vegetable, flower and greenhouse crops. Positions available include: Assistant Vegetable Grower, Weed Manager, Cut Flower Manager, and two General Intern positions. Contact Ryan at 413-467-7645.

For sale: proven Suffolk breeding rams from award winning flock, \$300 up. USDA inspected freezer lamb. Prices vary. Stony Farm, Holden, 508-829-4556.

Kajolite 12.5 KW PTO generator for emergency back up power. Older 1960s model, runs like new. \$475 or B/O. 781-444-2351. Ask for Al.

Chevy C60 truck (1974) with 12' dump body. Six cylinder engine, 4 speed transmission with over drive and two speed rear end. \$4500. Manure spreader, International 550, PTO driven. Holds about 4 yards. \$1700. Call 978-355-2015.

Empire Packaging Company - Your packaging resource for wholesale & retail packaging. 800-562-5520.

Subscribe to the New England Farm Bulletin. \$17/year includes 2 free farm classifieds or \$17 in free information booklets, monthly publication, annual almanac, New England fairs and farmers' market directory, monthly farm classifieds and features, access to rare farm topics and more! NEFB, Dept. MA, PO Box 67, Taunton, MA 02780.

## Farm & Market Report monthly

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs  
Department of Food and Agriculture



251 Causeway Street, Suite 500  
Boston, MA 02114  
617-626-1700  
www.massdfa.org

Jane Swift, Governor  
Bob Durand, Secretary of Environmental Affairs  
Jonathan L. Healy, Commissioner

Richard Hubbard, Assistant Commissioner  
Mary Jordan, Director, Agricultural Development  
Steven Quinn, Chief, Bureau of Fairs  
James Hines, Director, Dairy Services & Animal Health  
Brad Mitchell, Director, Regulatory Services  
George Porter, Chief, Bureau of Farm Products  
Janet Christensen, Director, Education and Outreach

Diane Baedeker Petit, Editor, Farm & Market Report

This publication is available in alternate formats upon request.

## Small Scale Food Entrepreneurship

The Northeast Center for Food Entrepreneurship has produced a new publication - free for the asking - "Small Scale Food Entrepreneurship: A Technical Guide for Food Ventures." The guide was designed to increase awareness of food processing and food safety issues by providing basic information on owning and operating a specialty food business. To obtain a free copy, send an email to [necfe@cornell.edu](mailto:necfe@cornell.edu) or call 888-624-6785. ♦

## calendar 2001

**November 8** – Challenges Facing the Green Industry, a UMass Extension Business Short Course, at the Sea Crest Resort, North Falmouth, Mass. Contact Rena Sumner, Mass. Nursery and Landscape Assoc., 413-369-4731 or Kathleen Carroll, UMass Extension, 413-545-0895, [kcarroll@umext.umass.edu](mailto:kcarroll@umext.umass.edu).

**November 13-14** – Greenhouse and Garden Retailers Expo at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, Mass. Sponsored by UMass Floriculture Extension Program and the Massachusetts Flower Growers Association. Featuring workshops and a trade show. Pre-registration fee \$80, walk-in registration fee \$90. Call Paul Lopes, 508-295-2212 x24, Tina Smith, 413-545-5306 or Bob Luczai, 978-952-0116.

**November 18-20** – The Soul of Agriculture: New Movement in New England Food and Farming at the New England Center, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH. Contact the Office of Sustainability Programs, University of New Hampshire, 603-862-2640 or [Elhafiz@aol.com](mailto:Elhafiz@aol.com).

**December 6** – State House Christmas Tree Lighting, Boston. Local producers are invited to sample their products. Contact Mary Jordan, 617-626-1750, [Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us](mailto:Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us) or Bonita Oehlke, 617-626-1753, [Bonita.Oehlke@state.ma.us](mailto:Bonita.Oehlke@state.ma.us).

**December 11-13** – New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Conference and Trade Show at the Sturbridge Host Hotel. Featuring more than 120 educational presentations and 80 exhibitor booths. For registration information contact Dr. Anne Carter, 413-545-5216, [akcarter@pssci.umass.edu](mailto:akcarter@pssci.umass.edu), for conference information contact Dr. Vern Grubinger, 802-257-7967, for trade show information, call Dom Marini at 508-378-2546.-

## State House Christmas Tree Lighting

The Annual Massachusetts State House Christmas Tree Lighting event will take place Thursday, December 6th in the early evening at the State House. This festive event is a great opportunity for the Massachusetts food and agricultural community to showcase some of its finest products. Participation in this fun and influential event is limited to the first dozen companies who respond. For more information, contact Bonita Oehlke at 617-626-1752, [Bonita.Oehlke@state.ma.us](mailto:Bonita.Oehlke@state.ma.us) or Mary Jordan at 617-626-1750, [Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us](mailto:Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us) ♦



10/01

PRESORT STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
BOSTON, MA  
PERMIT NO. 53425

Farm & Market Report  
Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500  
Boston, MA 02114  
Address service requested